

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7108

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJ: CIVAIR - PAN AM FLIGHTS AT OSAKA

REF: TOKYO 16642

SUMMARY: IN MOST RECENT DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY, JCAB ASSERTED THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GRANT PAN AM ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AT OSAKA. ONLY RAY OF HOPE WAS POSSIBILITY THAT OSAKA RESIDENTS WILL AGREE TO INTRODUCTION OF WIDE-BODY JETS AT OSAKA AIRPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN JANUARY 7 VISIT BY EMBOFF TO JCAB, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION DIRECTOR NAKAMURA AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOYA WERE ENTIRELY NEGATIVE ON QUESTION OF GRANTING PAN AM ANY INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FLIGHTS AT OSAKA, EITHER NOW OR IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THEY REPEATED JUSTIFICATION FOR RESTRICTIVE POLICY ON FLIGHTS AT OSAKA GIVEN TO EMBASSY AND CAB OFFICIALS LAST OCTOBER (TOKYO 13951) AND STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT USG AND PAN AM SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THIS POLICY WOULD BE ALTERED.

3. NAKAMURA AND TOYA NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR PASSENGER LOAD AT OSAKA IF JCAB SUCCEEDS IN ITS CURRENTLY ACTIVE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN OSAKA RESIDENTS' CONSENT TO USE OF OSAKA AIRPORT BY WIDE-BODY JETS. TO OBTAIN THIS CONSENT JCAB HAS

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OFFERED TO REDUCE TOTAL NUMBER OF JETS FREQUENCIES FROM

240 TO 220 PER DAY. NAKAMURA SAID JCAB WOULD EXPECT ENTIRE REDUCTION TO BE BORNE BY DOMESTIC CARRIERS. THUS, IF PLAN SUCCEEDS, INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS COULD EXPECT TO RETAIN PRESENT LEVEL OF FREQUENCIES AND TO INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY BY SUBSTITUTION OF WIDE-BODY AIRCRAFT FOR SOME OF CONVENTIONAL JETS NOW IN USE. NAKAMURA CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT JCAB DOES NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT WHEN OR WHETHER THIS PLAN WILL BE ACCEPTED.

3. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, EMBASSY PROPOSES NOT TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF PAN AM FLIGHTS WITH JCAB OR FONOFF AGAIN AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW OUTCOME OF THE CATHAY PACIFIC CASE (TOKYO 13596). UK AND JAPANESE AUTHORITIES WILL RESUME DISCUSSION OF THIS PROBLEM NEXT MONTH IN TOKYO. IF GOJ CONTINUES TO REFUSE ADDITIONAL OSAKA FREQUENCIES TO CATHAY PACIFIC (AS WE ANTICIPATE IT WILL), THERE WILL BE LITTLE HOPE FOR ADDITIONAL PAN AM FLIHTS.
HODGSON

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